Appendix 1

Plan Change 1 of the Land and Water Regional Plan addresses over-allocation of water in the Selwyn-Waihora catchment in the longer term in the following ways by:

1. Prohibiting new surface and groundwater water takes - the plan change is written on the basis that the Selwyn-Waihora catchment is already over-allocated for groundwater and surface water quantity. Rules prohibit new water takes where allocation limits are exceeded. This prohibition is already in place for the Selwyn-Waihora catchment.

2. Providing for the introduction of consented Central Plains Water Limited (CPWL) 'alpine water' into the Selwyn-Waihora catchment, and encouraging replacement of groundwater takes in the upper plains (above SH1) with CPWL-supplied surface water from the alpine rivers thereby leaving more groundwater in the aquifer. This transition is currently in progress but will take some time for the benefits to be fully realised. CPWL has completed its Stage 1 in the area between the Selwyn and Rakaia rivers above SH1. Indicative dates are for construction of Stage 2 (includes large area north of the Selwyn River above SH1) to start in early 2017 with completion by September 2018. (see http://www.cpwl.co.nz/stage-2-share-offer)

3. Raising minimum flows – from 2025 the plan change increases minimum flows and other restrictions for many lowland rivers and streams in the catchment, including the lower Selwyn River. This ring-fences for instream benefit the future expected improvements to lowland stream flows that will result from replacing upper plains groundwater takes with CPWL-supplied surface water.

4. Restrictions on transfer of water take permits – the plan change prohibits CPWL Irrigation Scheme shareholders from transferring their 'no longer required' permits to take and use groundwater, so water is not simply abstracted elsewhere and used by somebody else. In all other cases 50% of any transferred water is required to be surrendered. This restriction is already in place in the Selwyn-Waihora catchment.